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(54) Title: AN APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING THE POSITION OF AN OBJECT

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus which can provide rapid scanning of large specimens (14) to detect and determine positions of objects having specific characteristics. The apparatus may, further, be adapted to store information associated with the positions of the detected objects and to retrieve this position information so that an operator may locate a particular type of target object or objects in the specimen for detailed inspection and analysis subsequent to the scanning. The position information may be stored in a volatile or non-volatile memory device provided therefore in a preferred embodiment of the invention. The specimen may be provided on a solid support, such as a circular disc (13) which may be rotatably mounted about an axis (17) of a frame of the apparatus. The objects can be cells or microorganisms of a particular rare type, i.e. they may be present in a very low density in the specimen.

